

The Carraig Banner: A View from the Tower

January – March 2026 -- Anno Societatis LX

This is the quarterly newsletter for the Barony of Carraig Ban.

Baronial Missive

We say farewell to 2025 and look forward to 2026 with this newsletter, and especially to our upcoming Baronial Birthday [<https://carraigban.midrealm.org/welcome/events/>]. This year is a bardic bash, held at the Egyptian Theatre, an incredible venue! Come for good soup and great song, as well as classes and company. We have a new form of gift exchange as well [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdox7JPIX_T8veP03SSBkj6f4jxlas6twlDrVS6IBPDNyum6w/viewform?usp=header]! You can sign up to give, receive, or both.

Your barons have been very thankful for this holiday break, and hope that you are finding gentle respite as well. We have cleared the winter solstice and so welcome each gained minute of sunshine as we step forward to the New Year!

With deep love for you all,
Hiroaki and Kazuhiko, Barons Carraig Ban

Carraig Ban Baronial Birthday Bardic Bash

January 10, 2026, 9 – 5, Egyptian Theatre, DeKalb IL

Activities include

Bardic activities, including a concert

Craftpersons' green

Gaming tables

Classes

Potluck soup lunch and soup contest hosted by Barons Aki and Kazuhiko

Gift exchange

Baronial court

More information at <https://carraigban.midrealm.org/welcome/events/> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/3786232405004486>

From the Chronicler

Business meetings are usually held on a Thursday of odd numbered months, at the DeKalb Public Library. There will always be a Zoom link as well. These meetings begin at 6pm with a half hour of socializing before the business begins at 6:30.

The next meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026.

If we get enough members in Elgin, we will revisit having business meetings in Elgin.

Minutes of the November business meeting are available at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xpn1m6mncoRDRIVzyCzjbVAu7liwi1LPSAbIGjGcvl/edit?usp=sharing>

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A&S meetings are most Thursdays without a business meeting, usually held at the DeKalb Public Library, beginning at 6pm. If there is not a presentation you are welcome to drop by later than 6pm.

Elgin A&S are currently on hold. Check the Baronial Facebook group for updates. Until the Elgin A&S meetings are resolved, there is no A&S in person the 1st Thursday of each month. There may be Zoom classes, check the Baronial Facebook group for updates.

Baronial Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/baronyofcarraigban>

The 2nd Thursday usually has a theme of fiber and fabric (including assistance with garb). The 3rd Thursday usually has a theme of scribal (calligraphy and illumination) as well as sewing. The last Thursday of each month is an open house, potluck, gaming, and bardic night at the home of the Barons, 420 Franklin Street in DeKalb. (You are welcome to attend with no contribution to the potluck, the main point of the evening is socializing, not food.)

If there are 5 Thursdays in a month, the 4th Thursday topic is TBD at the DeKalb Public Library, unless it's a month with a business meeting, in which case the 4th Thursday is scribal and sewing.

Additional A&S sessions:

Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 2 PM at DKPL Chainmail Making with Lady Bunny

Sat, Feb 22, 2026 at 2 PM at DKPL T-Tunic class

See table below for A&S schedule and what events are on the weekend after each A&S.

Carraig Ban Business and A&S Meetings, 1stQ 2026

	A&S / Business meeting	(mostly) Midlands Event that weekend
Jan 1	Canceled, New Years Day	
Jan 8	SMACK talk with Duncan	Bardic Winter Event DeKalb IL
Jan 15	DeKalb business meeting	Festival of Maidens 51 – All in One Gifford, IL
Jan 22	DeKalb scribal and stitching	Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 2 PM at DKPL Chainmail Making with Lady Bunny
Jan 29	DeKalb open house, bardic and gaming	
Feb 5	TBD	
Feb 12	DeKalb fiber and fabric (inc. garb assistance)	
Feb 19	DeKalb scribal and stitching	Sat, Feb 22, 2026 at 2 PM at DKPL T-Tunic class
Feb 26	DeKalb open house, bardic and gaming	Courting on the River Moline, IL
Mar 5	TBD	Midlands Village Green IV Swordcliff (southern IL)
Mar 12	A&S or business meeting	
Mar 19	A&S or business meeting	
Mar 26	DeKalb open house, bardic and gaming	

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Fighting Practices

Heavy Fighting Practice is held on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:30. Until the weather gets better, it is held every other Wednesday at Fargo Skate Park in DeKalb.

Check before coming at the Facebook group Carraig Ban Fighter Practice

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=official%20carraig%20ban%20fighter%20practice>

Rapier Practice is held every Monday night at the Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb. Contact August Tang for details. [carraigban.exchequer@midrealm.org or message him on Facebook]

Spreadsheet of who is attending which events

It is now acceptable to post to Facebook requests for ridesharing and crash space, so this spreadsheet is no longer in use.

Information on Selected Events

A complete list and current official information is available at <https://midrealm.org/events-calendar>

January 10, 2026

Bardic Winter Event

<https://carraigban.midrealm.org/welcome/events/>

DeKalb, IL

January 17, 2026

Festival of Maidens 51 – All in One

Gifford, IL

<https://caergwyn.midrealm.org/festival-of-maidens-51-all-in-one/>

January 25, 2026

12th Night in Ayreton

Chicago, IL

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1147228977604434>

February 28, 2026

Courting on the River

Moline, IL

<https://darkriver.midrealm.org/events/>

March 7, 2026

Midlands Village Green IV

Swordcliff (southern IL)

<https://swordcliff.midrealm.org/events/midlands-village-green>

Baronial Officers

Baronage

Their Excellencies Akiyama Hiroaki and Akiyama Kazuhiko

carraigban.baron@midrealm.org

Landed Baron/ess is an appointed title and office given to individuals by the Crown of their Kingdom.

They become the local extension of the Crown and a representative for the populace of their Barony.

Seneschal & Marshal

Lord Alexicratus

carraigban.seneschal@midrealm.org

carraigban.marshal@midrealm.org

Serves as president of the group, acting as administrator and legal representative of the SCA.

Trained officer who oversees armored combat activities for safety purposes.

Exchequer

Baron Honda Heihachiro

carraigban.exchequer@midrealm.org

Serves as treasurer for the group.

Herald

Baron Ælfréd of Chester

carraigban.herald@midrealm.org

Official messenger for the Barony and researcher of book heraldry.

Minister of the Arts and Sciences (MOAS)

THL Jadwiga Wlodziawska

carraigban.moas@midrealm.org

Responsible for the encouragement of arts and sciences.

Chronicler

Lady Gillian Durham

carraigban.chronicler@midrealm.org

Documents group activities, and produces the Baronial Newsletter.

Chatelaine

Attamannue

carraigban.chatelaine@midrealm.org

Assists new individuals navigate the SCA.

Web Minister & Social Media Officer (SMO)

Baroness Umm Iskandar Mihri

carraigban.webminister@midrealm.org

carraigban.socialmedia@midrealm.org

Responsible for maintaining the Baronial Website, and manages Baronial information that is circulated on social media outlets.

Signet

Lady Bien-Venue La Rioté

carraigban.signet@midrealm.org

Coordinates volunteer artists of the society who create the awards scrolls given out to SCA members in recognition of their accomplishments.

Quarterminister

Lady Thana Spitui

Stores and catalogs Baronial equipment and provides access to it to stewards and officers for the running of events.

This is the January – March 2026 issue of the official newsletter of the Barony of Carraig Ban, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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